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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

CONSUMERS' GOODS INCREASE IN VOLUME, VARIETY

60,000 RADIOS SOLD TO WORKERS -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 4 Oct 50

The electrification of rural areas in accordance with the Five-Year Plan has enabled the rural population to use electric household appliances. Villrad (Radio and Electrical Goods Wholesale Trading Enterprise) has sold 60,000 "people's" radios so far this year, 80 percent of which were bought by rural workers.

FOOD PRODUCTION UP -- Budapest, Vilagossag, 4 Oct 50

The production of foodstuffs during the first 7 months of the Five-Year Plan showed a 41.5-percent increase over the same period last year.

FIRST HUNGARIAN FISH CANNERY IN OPERATION -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Oct 50

The first fish canning in Hungary was begun at the Budapest Canning Industry Enterprise at Cegled Street. Also 300,000 cans of fresh-water sardines will be placed on the market along with 12 cars of pickled fish canned in brine, similar to the USSR type. The production of this plant will be sufficient for domestic needs and will be of sufficient quality to enter competition with previously imported products.

PRICE OF TABLE SALT DROPS -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 1 Oct 50

A decrease in the price of packaged table salt from 3 forints 30 fillers to 2 forints 30 fillers per kilogram was announced by a decree in Magyar Kozlony, the official Hungarian gazette. The price of the half-kilogram package was also lowered from 1.80 to 1.25 forints. Iodized salt also dropped from 3.30 forints to 3 forints per kilogram, and from 1.80 to 1.60 forints per half kilogram.

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INCREASE IN MILK CONSUMPTION -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 1 Oct 50

Milk consumption in Budapest during August and September was 25 and 30 percent greater, respectively, than during corresponding months of 1949.

Taking the 1946 milk consumption in the provinces as 100 percent, the consumption in 1947 was 165 percent; in 1948, 255 percent, and in 1949, 431 percent. In 1950, daily milk consumption is 200,000 liters more than last year. On a national average, the per-capita milk consumption increased 29.5 percent in the first 4 months of 1950.

FACTORY-MADE CIGARETTES REPLACING HAND-ROLLED -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 4 Oct 50

A few years ago, the sale of factory-made cigarettes was about equal to the sale of loose tobacco. Today, the sale of factory-made cigarettes is three times the prewar level. Hand-rolled cigarettes, cigars, and pipes are becoming a rarity. Cigarette consumption last year increased 13 percent over 1938 and sales this year are 15 percent greater than 1938. Since 1946, the level of consumption has increased 5-6 percent annually. During the first 7 months of this year, 17 percent more cigarettes were sold than in the same period last year. The most popular brands are: Kossuth, Ot Eves Terv, and Harmonia, but large quantities of the more expensive Tulipan brand are sold, too.

REPORTS COMMODITY SHORTAGE -- New York, Riportok es Hitek Magyaroszagrol, 30 Sep 50

Plenty of ice cream, cakes, preserves, weak wine, and liqueurs are displayed in the confectioneries, but there is a shortage of food and delicacies. Recently, there was no soap or soap powder available; steel sewing needles and white darning thread are nowhere to be found; sewing thread is lumpy, and the milk in the public milk bars tastes of formalin and is of suspicious purity since milk inspection exists only on the statistics sheets. People stand in line outside pawnshops and horsemeat stores. There is a critical shortage of fuel, and even low-quality firewood is hardly available.

PRODUCE 40,000 PAIRS OF SHOES FROM WASTE MATERIAL -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 5 Oct 50

Workers of the Tisza Shoe Factory at Szolnok joined the economy drive and have already produced 40,000 pairs of shoes this year from ordinarily wasted raw material. Through an even better utilization of raw material, workers on the Tisza Shoe Factory have pledged to produce 20,000 more pairs of shoes by 31 December.

SHOE FACTORY INSTITUTES ECONOMY DRIVE -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 5 Oct 50

Workers of the Pecs Leather Factory have resolved to institute an economy drive, to reduce production costs by one million forints, and to complete planned production for 1950 by 20 December. In connection with the raw-material-conservation drive, they pledged to save by the end of the year an amount of leather equivalent to 7,000 pairs of laced boots, 25,000 pairs of oxfords, 100,000 pairs of half soles, and 60,000 squares of fine leathers and materials suitable for export. After the announcement by the Pecs Factory, the Pannonia Fur Products Plant also joined in the economy drive.

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